

**WASHINGTON STATE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Summary – March 19, 2002**

---

The meeting was **called to order** by **Jeff Kelley-Clarke** at 9:36, in a conference room at Ecology headquarters in Lacey. All in attendance introduced themselves and the January 22<sup>nd</sup> SWAC Meeting Summary was approved.

- 9:38 **What does “Sustainability” mean to the SWAC?** **Cullen Stephenson** presented some PowerPoint slides to display waste production and recycling rate information. He explained why sustainability is important—budget implications, and population growth impacts—to our waste handling systems and to the state of Washington. As an example, Cullen showed the aluminum can production, recycling, and waste ratios and their material and energy costs. (Cullen’s PowerPoint presentation slides are attached.) He emphasized the need for SWAC to educate businesses, manufacturers, and industries, about the need for—and the long term benefits of—operating sustainably.

*Those of us at the receiving end [of discarded aluminum cans] have little influence over industrial extraction and production practices. What can we solid waste managers do?*

--Let’s promote [the imposition of] recycling surcharges being factored into product pricing, up front. We need to assess the full cost of consumer products and packaging [so the price reflects the long-term reality].

*What are you thinking about doing?*

--Activism, education, technical assistance.

*Changes [in consumer product pricing] are driven by economic considerations. Garbage (volume and ratios are) directly related to the economy...A naïve person will not recognize the social or environmental impacts of production decisions.*

--The [strength of our] economy depends upon [the cohesion of our] society; society[’s choices] depend upon the [health of our physical] environment...Think of the dependent relationship of the three elements, in balance, as a sphere—at the core, is the environment; building on that core, is society; and layered on top of society, is the economy.

*Can we build upon [the learning gleaned from] Oregon’s sustainability initiative?*

--Governor Locke is looking at [the value of] issuing an Executive Order...[designed to help us publicize] the true costs of wasteful consumerism.

*[How will that fit into] the Statewide Waste Management Plan? Where’s the stake in the ground? How are we doing [as measured] against the existing Plan?*

--Our current “stake” is a 50% recycling rate. We are not getting there, despite good effort and hard work.

*Maybe we could help stimulate [recycled materials] markets...focus effort there. The more educated we are, the better the [waste management] system. We need to minimize the damage –throughout the system—and raise the level of [awareness of, and self-responsibility for] all.*

--Let’s recognize the improvements we’ve made, and not condemn ourselves for failure to attain an arbitrary goal. Instead, let’s examine our successes and build upon them

*We are so effective at whisking the waste away from people’s doorsteps, that the majority have no concept of the impacts of their behavior/choices/practices.*

--We can affect the “pre-consumer” through [targeted] education [programs], and we can influence “post-consumer” [materials handling] behavior.

- *The poster child for this issue, is “junk mail”...*
- *We don’t [have to] live in the trash of our consumerism...*
- *As the rest of our economy falls, so does recycling...*

--[Having to impose greater] regulation indicates a design failure [by the regulated entity.]

- 10:40 **David Giglio** described the Legislature’s [most compelling] impacts upon the SW&FA Program budget, with his focus on the Local Toxics Control Account. At the moment, some \$18,500,000 are earmarked for Remedial Action Grants.

*Jeff asked for a presentation to the next SWAC, describing the Remedial Action Grant Program.*

[The projection of incoming] revenue is still higher than historical averages—around \$6,000,000 in the forecast, with approximately \$2,000,000 actual funding available through the Local Toxics Control Account. [On the basis of these latest projections,] we should be able to maintain services—at current levels—next biennium.

- 10:45 Legislative Proposals Update: **Cullen Stephenson** announced that the State Department of Agriculture has adopted a measure supposedly banning the use of clopyralid for residential lawn weed control—unless the residential lawn-groomer wants the product. The so-called ban seems to promote restrictions on composting opportunities, instead. Agriculturists who use compost to enrich their topsoil were neither represented nor considered in the drafting of this agency action. Cullen will ask Tom Fitzsimmons to send a Director-to-Director letter to DoA about the unintended consequences of the agency's recent action.
- 11:04 U.S. Senate Bill 1194: **Jeff Kelley-Clarke** described the political interests behind the Senate bill addressing the interstate transportation and disposal of wastes, House bill 1213 limiting interstate transportation of municipal waste, and House bill 1214 regarding the exercise of flow control.
- 11:10 Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan: SWAC members are cordially invited to participate in a conference call, regarding the draft Plan outline. Those who wish to participate should contact **Cheryl Smith** (360) 407-6654 regarding the dates and times of your availability.
- 11:14 Minimum Functional Standards: **Cullen Stephenson** reported that (despite the continued wait for the Small Business Economic Impact Statement) we expect the rule to take effect this summer—although some sections have a six- or twelve-months [implementation] window. Ecology staff are already gearing up for the implementation of Chapter 173-350 WAC [by] designing forms, listing identified “beneficial uses” [that will be exempt from solid waste permitting requirements] and developing the criteria for beneficial use determinations.
- 11:16 **Closing Comments** were brief—just one question about the Solid Waste Composition Study—because SWAC had requested a site visit to the Hawks Prairie recycling facility. Norm LeMay told us how his company trains and retains the workers who do the sorting, and Scott Schimelfenig explained the public-private partnership managed by Thurston County. We received on-site explanations of the procedures, challenges, and lessons learned thus far.

**ADJORNED** at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

***Dolores Mitchell***

Attending Members/Alternates:

Mark Buscher	Holly Chisa	Bill Dean	Dennis Durbin	Jeff Kelley-Clarke
Dean Large	Brad Lovaas	Deborah Reynolds	Bob Schille	Eddie Westmoreland

Attending Nonmembers:

Linda Dennis	Rob Guttridge	Norm LeMay	Jerry Smedes
--------------	---------------	------------	--------------